Contact: Logan Johnson (831) 656-1710 x223

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2015

## Novato becomes a National Weather Service StormReady Community

National Weather Service officials have recognized Novato as a StormReady community. The <u>StormReady</u> program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding. StormReady communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

Logan Johnson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in Monterey, California, presented city officials with a certificate and special StormReady signs during a ceremony at the start of the Novato City Council Meeting on January 27.

"The city of Novato has taken a proactive stance towards working with the National Weather Service and preparing for response to severe and hazardous weather in the area. These efforts help NOAA's national mission of building a Weather-Ready Nation full of more resilient communities," said Johnson.

"Our priority is the safety of our community," said Councilmember Madeline Kellner. "Whether it is keeping our storm drains and waterways clear of debris, providing free "Get Ready" classes, or investing in a robust emergency management program—we commit ourselves daily to ensure a prepared Novato."

The nationwide community preparedness program, founded in 1999, is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 2,200 U.S. communities are better prepared for severe weather through the StormReady program.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must maintain a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; be able to monitor local weather and flood conditions; conduct community preparedness programs; and ensure hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training <a href="SKYWARN">SKYWARN</a>® weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady program is part of the National Weather Service's working partnership with the <a href="International Association of Emergency Managers">International Association of Emergency Managers</a> and the <a href="National Emergency Management">National Emergency Management</a> <a href="Association">Association</a>. The StormReady recognition is valid for three years and can be renewed.

The <u>National Weather Service's San Francisco Bay Area Forecast Office</u>, located in Monterey, CA, is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for about 7.5 million people in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas. Join us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Working with partners, the <u>National Weather Service</u> is building a <u>Weather-Ready Nation</u> to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

###

StormReady<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.